

**(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)**

**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau**



(43) International Publication Date  
25 August 2005 (25.08.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/078218 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: E05C 1/00  
17/48, E05B 47/00

**David [NZ/NZ]; 175 The Esplanade, Petone, Wellington (NZ). COLLINGS, Martyn, Walter, Goodwin [NZ/NZ]; 1/21 Makererua Street, Ngaio, Wellington (NZ).**

**(21) International Application Number:** PCT/NZ2005/000018

(74) **Agent:** HOPKINS, Donald, Leslie; c/o Don Hopkins & Associates, Unit 2, Northcote Office Park, 145-147 Queen Street, Palmerston North (NZ).

**(22) International Filing Date:** 16 February 2005 (16.02.2005)

(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

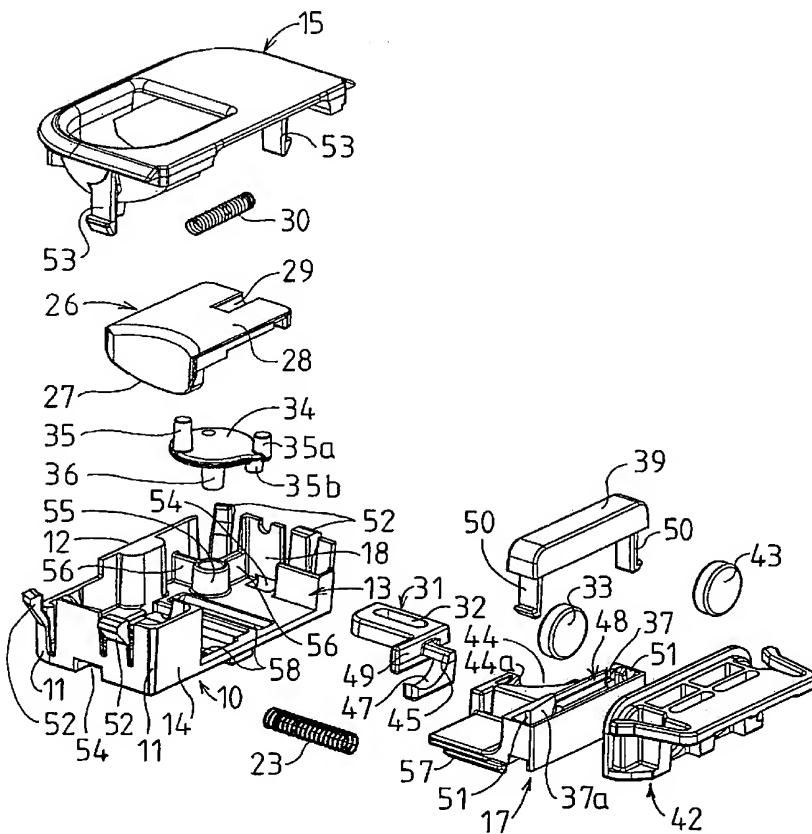
(25) Filing Language: English  
(26) Publication Language: English  
(30) Priority Data:  
531205 18 February 2004 (18.02.2004) NZ

MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

[Continued on next page]

**(54) Title:** SELF LATCHING DEVICE



**(57) Abstract:** A self latching device for self-latching a sliding closure such as a window sash. The device includes a latch member (17) which is moveable between a latching position and a non-latching position. The latch member (17) when in the latching position is engaged with a strike (42). A biasing element (23) biases the latch member (17) into one of the latching and non-latching positions. A magnetic element (43) is provided for moving the latch member (17) into the other of the latching and non-latching positions. In one form the magnetic element (43) is associated with the strike (42) and a magnet element (33) is associated with the latch member (17). The magnets are preferably permanent magnets (33 and 43). A user accessible slider (26) coupled by a coupler (34, 35) to magnet slider (31) enables the magnet element (33) to be temporarily moved away from the magnetic element (43) to enable the latch member (17) to retract from the strike (42).



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

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